

CONTRIBUTION TO KNOWLEDGE OF THE OLIGOCHAETEFUNA
(ANNELIDA, OLIGOCHAETA) FROM ARGENTINA

CONTRIBUCIÓN AL CONOCIMIENTO DE LA OLIGOQUETOFUNA
(ANNELIDA, OLIGOCHAETA) DE LA ARGENTINA

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ABSTRACT

To Argentina *Glossodrilus parecis* is pointed out for the first time, and the distribution of *Pontoscolex corethruvus* is increased, also *Eukerria saltensis*, *Amyntus hawayanus*, *A. morrissi* y *Aporrectodea trapezoides* make up the first quotation of earthworms for the Province of Catamarca.

KEYWORDS: Oligochaeta, Ocneroдрilidae, Glossoscolecidae, Megascolecidae, Lumbricidae, Argentina.

RESUMEN

Se señala por primera vez para la Argentina *Glossodrilus parecis* y se incrementa la distribución de *Pontoscolex corethruvus*, *Eukerria saltensis*, *Amyntus hawayanus*, *A. morrissi* y *Aporrectodea trapezoides* se citan por primera vez para la provincia de Catamarca.

PALABRAS CLAVES: Oligochaeta, Ocneroдрilidae, Glossoscolecidae, Megascolecidae, Lumbricidae, Argentina.

INTRODUCTION

In the Neotropical region of Argentina, 66 species of earthworms and their distribution have been indicated (Ljungström *et al.*, 1975). Subsequently, new species and locations were added covering wide areas of the country that had not been examined.

This contribution is based on the study of earthworms in majority collected personally and its main objective was to disseminate new records for the country and to increase the distribution of both native and non-native earthworms.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The worms were collected manually from the

soil and preserved in 10% formalin. The study was performed by dissections, mounting of microscopical pieces in glycerine-water (1:1) and serial histological sections stained by Mallory's triple method (Pantin, 1964). The material is deposited in the Museum of Zoology, University of Cordoba, Argentina, exception *G. parecis* that is in the Department of Zoology, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

RESULTS

Ocneroдрilidae

Eukerria saltensis (Beddard, 1895)

Kerria saltensis Beddard, 1891:225; *Eukerria saltensis* Ljungström *et al.*, 1975:12; Righi, 1979:120; Mischis, 1991: 207; Mischis, 1996:64.

Material- Argentina, Province Catamarca: Rio del Valle in Las Pirquitas Ville, C. Mischis col.

This is the most widely peregrine species of *Eukerria* (Jamieson, 1970).

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Glossoscolecidae

Glossodrilus parecis Righi & Ayres, 1975

Glossodrilus (Tonperog) *parecis* Righi & Ayres, 1975:113; Righi, 1980:242; Righi, 1995:576.

Material- Argentina, Province Córdoba: Río Ceballos in soghum plantation, dos clitellate worms (ZU-1304 Universidad de Sao Paulo), C. Mischis col.

Considerations: The species was known in a the piedmonts of Serra do Mar in Brazil, Rio Grande do Soul and Rio de Janeiro States. Probably it corresponds to *Glossoscolex minutus* (nomem nudum, species does not described or figured) recorded by Ljungström *et al.* (1975) from Santa Fe Province, La Capital and Las Colonias Departments.

Distribution: Endemic species from South America.

Pontoscolex corethrurus (Müller, 1857)

Lumbricus corethrurus Müller, 1857:113; *Pontoscolex corethrurus* Righi, 1984:114.

Material: Argentina: Province Cordoba: Department Capital in greenhouse, E. Karlem col.

Distribution: Origin unknown (Gates, 1972).
Peregrine species in tropical and subtropical zones of the world Righi (1990).

Megascolecidae

Amyntas hawayanus (Rosa, 1891)

Perichaeta hawayana Rosa, 1891:396; *Pheretima hawayana* Ljungström *et al.*, 1975:24; *Amyntas hawayanus* Righi, 1979:128; Mischis, 1991:210; Mischis, 1993:10 (synonymy); Mischis, 1996:65

Material: Argentina: Province Catamarca: Las Pirquitas Ville, in garden and orchard, C. Mischis col.

Distribution- Pantropic. Origin Oriental Region, probably China, anthropocorus (Reynolds, 1994).

Amyntas morrissi (Beddard, 1892)

Perichaeta morrissi Beddard, 1892:166; *Pheretima morrissi*, Ljungström *et al.*, 1975:24; *Amyntas morrissi* Righi, 1979:130; Mischis, 1991:

210; Mischis, 1993:10 (synonymy); Mischis, 1996:65.

Material: Argentina: Province Catamarca: Las Pirquitas Ville in garden and near Las Pirquitas dam, C. Mischis, col.

Distribution: Oriental Region, probably China (Gates, 1972).

Lumbricidae

Aporrectodea trapezoides (Dugès, 1828)

Lumbricus trapezoides Dugès, 1828:289; *Allolobophora trapezoides* Ljungström *et al.*, 1975:28; Righi, 1979:144; *Aporrectodea trapezoides* Mischis, 1991: 212; Mischis, 1996:66.

Material: Argentina: Province Catamarca: Las Pirquitas Ville near Las Pirquitas dam, C. Mischis col.

Distribution: It is a species originating from SE Europe and SW Asia. It is one of the most common species in the different habitats in the world, anthropochorus (Gates, 1972).

CONCLUSIONS

Due to the different geographical situations in the Argentine, there are vast areas whose biological components are unknown, therefore what emerges from the following contribution is that knowledge of the earthworm fauna increases as samples increase. The oligochaetefauna of the Province of Catamarca has been studied for the first time and four species are cited: *Eukerria saltensis* is a hydrophilic and peregrine species and *Amyntas hawayanus*, *A. morrissi* and *Aporrectodea trapezoides* are introduced voluntarily or involuntarily, which Gates (1972) called "antropochorous". Furthermore, the distribution of *Glossodrilus parecis*, which is endemic in South America, is increased, as well as that of *Pontoscolex corethrurus* which was first found in a Córdoba greenhouse in the soil accompanying the roots of the plants. This is a form of involuntary introduction performed by man (Gates 1957, 1972).

On account of the importance earthworms have as a form of edaphic fauna, knowledge of their diversity is indispensable for the achievement of a greater understanding of ecosystems.

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